eluded in the Seventh Plan are to be equipped for production of programmes in colour. Black and white equipment at the existing Kendras is also envisaged to be replaced by colour equipment as a part of the Seventh Plan.

(b) Orders have been placed for bulk of the equipment and civil .works taken up at a large number of Kendras.

(c) Projects at different places are at different stages of implementation. Some of these will be completed during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan while some others will spill over to the Eighth Plan.

Increase in tbe prices of essential commodities being marketed through PDS

1212. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND' CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased-to state:

(a) the price per Kg. pf rice, sugar and wheat sold through public distribution[1] system during 1986, 1987 and 1988; and

(b) on how many occasions in the said period prices of the above mentioned esential commodities were increased toge- with the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L BHATIA): (a) The retail prices of wheat and rice are fixed by the State Governments themselves and vary from State to State. However, the Central issue prices of wheat and rice issued to the State Governments and the retail price of sugar sold through the public distribution' system are uniform throughout the country. A statement showing the Central issue prices of wheat and rice and the retail prices of sugar is attached. *(See* below).

(b) The Central price of wheat and the retail price of sugar were increased on two occasions during 1986 to 1988, while the issue price of rice was increased thrice. The prices of wheat and rice were increased consequent upon increase in the support prices of wheat and paddy, in order to contain the subsidy bill. The main reasons for the increase in the levy sugar price during this period were :

(i) successive increases in the statutory minimum price of sugarcane; and

(ii) increase in the conversion cost of sugar.

Statement

Central issue prices of Wheat and Rice and the retail prices of Sugar

(Rs. per Kg.)

	1-1-86 to 31-1-86	12-86 to 30-9-86	1-10-86 to 30-9-87	1-10-87
RICE Common	2.17	2.31	- 2-39	2-39
Fine	2 29'	2.43	2.51	2.64
Superfine	2.44	" 2.58	2.66	2.79
V9HEAT	1-1-86 to 30-4-87	1-5-87 to 24-3-88	25-3-88	2-
	1.90	1.95		
. SUGAR	1-1-86 to 11-12-87	15-12-86 to 14-12-86	1-1-88	
	4-80	4-85		